

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3, 6, 11-16, and 20 are amended. Claims 4-5 and 18-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is added by these amendments. Claims 1-3, 6-17, and 20 are pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all claims in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

*Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 101*

Claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 11-15 are amended to recite a storage device, which is statutory subject matter.

*Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102*

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as unpatentable over Bowman (US 6,006,225). Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over Bowman because Bowman does not teach or suggest all of the elements of the claims, for the reasons argued below.

Claim 1 recites: “finding a correlation between a first statement and a previous statement . . . predicting a second statement based on the previous statement, wherein the predicting further comprises finding the previous statement in a history and finding the second statement that was next in time following the previous statement in the history . . . executing the second statement against the database.” Thus, claim 1 predicts the second statement by finding it next in time following the previous statement in the history, and the previous statement has a correlation to the first statement.

In contrast, Bowman, describes a terms list that “contains the terms which have historically appeared together (in the same query) with the respective key term with the highest degree of frequency.” Bowman at column 2, lines 66-67 and column 3, lines 1-2). Bowman also describes combining multiple related terms lists “by taking the intersection

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between these lists." Bowman at column 3, lines 10-13. Bowman uses these term lists containing terms that have appeared together in the same query to create related query terms, which it displays as the links 910 in Fig. 9. If the user selects one of the links 910, then Bowman performs a search using the selected related query terms. Bowman at column 14, lines 18-23. Thus, Bowman creates the terms in its links 910 based on terms that have frequently appeared together in a query and based on the intersection of these terms. Hence, the Bowman links 910 are not particular queries that have been used in the past; instead, the Bowman links 910 contain combination of terms that have appeared in multiple queries.

In contrast to Bowman, claim 1 predicts the second statement, by finding it in the history following (next in time) the previous statement, and executes this predicted second statement against the database. Thus, Bowman does not teach or suggest all the elements of claim 1 because creating a combination of terms from multiple queries does not teach or suggest finding a second statement that follows a previous statement in time in a history.

Independent claims 6, 11, and 16 include similar elements as argued above for claim 1 and are patentable over the references for similar reasons. Claims 2-3, 7-10, 12-15, 17, and 20 are dependent on claims 1, 6, 11, and 16, respectively, and are patentable for the reasons argued above, plus the elements in the claims.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney (651-645-7135) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

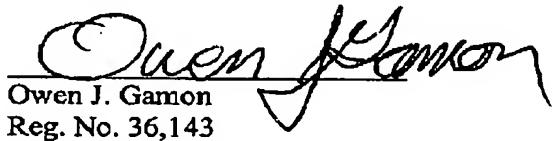
If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representative,

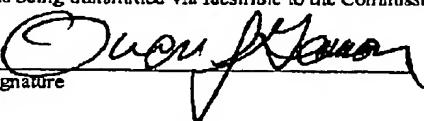
Date: August 31, 2006

  
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the Commissioner for Patents 571-273-8300, on August 31, 2006.

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